FAX

To: Examiner Peter Choi
US Patent Office
Fax Phone Number: (571) 273-8300

Art Unit: 3623

Application Control Number 10/036,200

Date: January 24, 2007

From Norman Ken Ouchi

Examiner Choi

Attached is a discussion of Du et al, US Patent 5,823,239 with respect to the obviousness of the present invention and the points in the Office Action mailed 11/02/06. Claims have been amended based on your examination.

May we schedule a phone call after you have read the discussion? If a phone call is possible, please call me at 408-757-5862 so we may schedule a time to fit your calendar.

Seven pages plus this cover sheet

Thank you,

Norman Ken Ouchi

Response to USPTO Ofice Action Mailed 11/02/06

Examiner: Peter Choi

Art Unit: 3623

Title: Object Based Workflow Route·

Application Number: 10/036,200

Confirmation Number 2842

Inventor: Norman Ken Ouchi

Date: January 24, 2007

Status: This action is non-Final

Disposition of Claims: Claims 21-39 are Pending and Rejected as unpatentable over Du et al, US Patent 5,826,239.

<u>Discussion</u>

The inventor appreciates the through research and analysis by the examiner to aid the inventor. The points made by the examiner have been valuable in writing the claims.

To the points in the Office Action of 11/02/06

1) Claim Objection and Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 112 of claims 21, 29, and 32.

The inclusion of a fourth step was inadvertent and has been changed to a third step. Dependent claims with a third route segment have been changed to fourth route segment.

2) Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. 103 for Claim 21 (and claims 29 and 32) as unpatentable over Du.

The claims have been amended to distinguish the present invention from Du. Specifically:

A. The definition of the object route now explicitly provides conditional branches, parallel paths, and loops, such that all connected object steps are included. Under this definition the entire graph in Figure 7 of Du is a single route rather each possible path as a route.

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